

Table 8: Trial

Method for Setting Trial Dates—How and when does the court set trial dates?

Parties Sign Trial Continuance Requests—Are parties (as well as attorneys) required to sign requests to postpone trial?

Backup System for Trial Dates—What methods does the court use to ensure the availability of a judge on the scheduled trial date?

Methods for Trial Management—What methods does the court use to manage the conduct of trials?

Other—Are there other relevant provisions?

District	Method for Setting Trial Dates	Parties Sign Trial Continuance Requests	Backup System for Trial Dates	Methods for Trial Management	Other
M.D. Ala.	The trial date is set at the initial case management conference.	CR	IA	IA	
N.D. Ala.	The judges of the court expect to continue their practice of establishing at an early stage of litigation the date when a case is to be ready for trial and being in a position to conduct that trial within a short time after the date, if not on the actual day, when the case is set for trial. Rarely have trials not been held within 18 months after the case was filed, and the court expects to be able to continue to set most cases for trial within 12 months after filing.	No	Judges of the court will continue their current practice of making an early determination regarding trial, which, however, may take the form of a firm trial date, of a specified period during which the trial will be scheduled, or of a date after which the parties are to be ready for trial upon issuance of a trial docket or other appropriate notice.	The following procedures should reduce trial time: facilitating the introduction of documentary evidence under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3); using juror questionnaires during voir dire and selection and better managing the presentation of expert testimony, both by using the court's powers under Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 to limit the number of experts and by requiring detailed pretrial written reports from retained experts. Use of ADR should produce earlier, more cost-effective settlement of some cases, and the settlement of some other	

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				cases that, without such special efforts, would require trial. Even if unsuccessful in fully settling a case, ADR may help to narrow the triable issues and in turn reduce the time needed for trial.	
S.D. Ala.	IA	IA	IA	IA	
D. Alaska	The court will pursue a goal of trial within 18 months of the filing of the civil complaint.	Stipulations to continue a trial date should have the express concurrence of all parties and counsel. Motions to continue trial dates are subject to the normal adversary process, so the signature of parties appears to be unnecessary.	IA	IA	Setting early trial dates in all cases has some detrimental effects. If civil cases are vigorously managed from an early date, the same net result can be achieved as from early trial.
D. Ariz.	Trial dates are set at the final pretrial conference in standard and complex cases.	IA	IA Loc. R. 212(4)B(ii)	IA	
E.D. Ark.	The court will set a firm trial date and pretrial schedule. Stacking of cases is permitted.	IA	IA	IA	The court will continue to try cases as promptly and efficiently as it can.
W.D. Ark.	IA	IA	IA	IA	
C.D. Cal.	IA Loc. R. 6.4.2	IA	At the request of the presiding judge, the chief judge and the court committee will assist in finding a senior or visiting judge to take over a trial when the presiding judge cannot make the scheduled trial date for a complex civil case because of a complex criminal case.	IA	IA Loc. R. 9.5.3B

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E.D. Cal.	IA Loc. R. 240 (10/84; Revised 5/91) Loc. R. 280 (10/84; Revised 5/91)	IA	IA Loc. R. 284 (10/84; Revised 5/91)	IA Loc. R. 240 (10/84; Revised 5/91) Summary of Court Practices, at 50–51 (12/91) Summary of Court Practices, at 64–65 (12/91)	The court should continue to set realistic trial dates. Loc. R. 280(a) (10/84; Revised 5/91)
N.D. Cal.	The court is searching for new procedures or management strategies to deliver firm trial dates earlier in civil actions. General Order 34 § VIII G (1/1/92; Revised 1/1/93, 12/1/93, 1/18/94) General Order 34 § IX H (1/1/92; Revised 1/1/93, 12/1/93, 1/18/94) General Order 34 § X H (1/1/92; Revised 1/1/93, 12/1/93, 1/18/94)	Yes General Order 34 § XVII (1/1/92; Revised 1/1/93, 12/1/93, 1/18/94)	The Advisory Group will explore the potential of setting up pools of judges to “pinch hit” for the assigned judge when he or she is unable to honor the original trial date. The Advisory Group will also explore the potential for assigning cases (at the time of filing) to 2 judges (2 district judges or 1 district and 1 magistrate judge) so that the second may be able to try a case if the first judge is unable to keep the original trial date.	IA	The Advisory Group will explore the potential of setting aside fixed periods annually or biannually for the trial of “short cause” matters.
S.D. Cal.	Social Security, enforcement of judgments, prisoner confinement, forfeiture, and penalty cases should be set for trial within 12 months. Tort claims should be scheduled for trial within 15 months. Twenty-five percent of noncomplex civil cases should have a trial date within 18 months.	IA	Continuances may be granted only for good cause shown. No trial date extensions are granted except by written order of the judge.	The clerk will make monthly reports to the chief judge on civil cases more than 18 months old and criminal cases more than 6 months old.	Each judge will be exempted from new criminal case assignments for 2 months each year in order to have uninterrupted civil case management.
D. Colo.	IA Loc. R. 40.3	IA	IA	IA	
D. Conn.	IA Loc. R. 10(a) (5/85)	IA	IA Loc. R. 10(a) (5/85) Loc. R. 10(b) (5/85) Loc. R. 10(d)(1) (5/85)	IA	

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D. Del.	The trial date should be set by the scheduling order. Loc. R. 16.2(c) (Revised 1/95)	IA Loc. R. 16.5 (Revised 1/95)	IA	IA	
D.D.C.	IA Loc. R. 111(a)	CR	IA	Each judge will try to hold trial during normal business hours and will try to schedule the trial so that the evidence will not be interrupted by other proceedings.	
M.D. Fla.	Trial dates are established in the scheduling order. (PD)	No Loc. R. 3.09 (7/1/84; Revised 2/1/94)	IA	IA Loc. R. 3.07 (7/1/84; Revised 4/1/91)	
N.D. Fla.	Trial dates are set by the court after consideration of the joint discovery/case management plan.	The Advisory Group and the court rejected a requirement for signed requests to postpone trial. Loc. R. 6.1 (Proposed)	IA	IA Loc. R. 8 (Revised 84) Loc. R. 5.2 (Proposed) Loc. R. 16.2 (Proposed)	
S.D. Fla.	The scheduling order will set a date certain for trial. The goal is to set a trial date no later than 18 months after the filing of the complaint unless: 1. the complexity and demands of the case require a later trial date; or 2. the trial cannot reasonably be held within such time due to the pending criminal caseload of the court; or 3. the trial cannot reasonably be held within such time due to the number of vacant authorized judgeships.	IA	IA	IA	In general, civil trial will be scheduled on a fixed calendar no longer than 2–3 weeks' duration and no more than 12–14 criminal and civil trials will be set on any trial calendar of 2–3 weeks' duration.
M.D. Ga.	The court establishes the goal that a trial date normally be set within 12 to 18 months of a cases's filing.	IA	IA	IA	

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N.D. Ga.	The standard scheduling order will be revised to include two alternate provisions: the judge can set a trial month to occur within 18 months after the complaint was filed; or that the demands of the criminal calendar make it impossible to set a trial date. In the former case, the judge will adopt his or her own procedures for setting the specific trial date.	IA	IA	IA	
S.D. Ga.	The trial date may be set in the scheduling order or at a status or pretrial conference. (PD) Loc. R. 7.1 (1/82; Revised 6/94); Renumbered Loc. R. 16. Loc. R. 8.1 (1/82); Renumbered Loc. R. 16.1 Loc. R. 8.2 (1/82); Renumbered Loc. R. 16.2 Loc. R. 8.5 (1/82); Renumbered Loc. R. 16.4	IA	IA	IA	
D. Guam	IA Loc. R. 235-3(d)	IA Loc. R. 235-9	IA Loc. R. 235-9	IA Loc. R. 237	
D. Haw.	Absent extraordinary circumstances, trial will be held within 12 months of the filing of the complaint. The trial date will be set at the initial scheduling conference. (PD) Loc. R. 235-3 (11/91)	No	The court will continue to develop procedures for back-up judges and encourage consent to trial by a magistrate judge. (PD) Loc. R. 403-2(a) (11/91)	IA Loc. R. 235-4 (11/91)	
D. Idaho	A trial date is set at the first scheduling conference. The court may not grant motions for continuance without first setting a definite date for the trial, hearing, or next action	IA	When a continuance is requested by reason of the unavailability of a witness, the court may consider the feasibility of using several methods of recording	IA	Clients will be required to approve continuances for trial prior to the attorney filing a motion with the court.

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	deadline.	Loc. R. 7.3(b) (Revised 3/92)	testimony permitted by Fed. R. Civ. P. 30 and authorized by Fed. R. Civ. P. 32(A)(3).		Loc. R. 7.3(b) (Revised 3/92)
C.D. Ill.	IA	IA	IA	IA Loc. R. 1.11 (1/92) Loc. R. 2.11 (1/92; Revised 1/94)	The court agrees with the Advisory Group finding that setting firm trial dates is not always possible in this district due to the mandatory preference given criminal trials and the geography of the district.
N.D. Ill.	The court and the Advisory Group agree that trials should start within 18 months of filing, but both feel that the certification process suggested in 28 U.S.C. §§ 473(a)(B)(i) and 473(a)(B)(ii) is unlikely to reduce expense and delay.	The court agrees with the Advisory Group's recommendation that this requirement not be adopted.	IA	IA Loc. Gen. R. 5.00A (6/26/85) Loc. Gen. R. 21	
S.D. Ill.	Presumptive trial dates are set at the time of initial screening by the assigned Judicial Officer. Loc. R. 6 (5/92; Revised 3/94)	IA	IA	IA	
N.D. Ind.	In all possible cases, the judicial officer will set the trial date at the initial pretrial conference. The date will be set so as to occur within 16 months of the conference. For more complex cases, the judicial officer will consider setting the date at a subsequent pretrial conference.	No	The court declined to abolish the use of trailing calendars given the current heavy criminal caseload.	Judicial officers and attorneys should consider all reasonable techniques to shorten trials, including time limits, summaries of depositions, and so on. Attorneys should endeavor to estimate the length of trial as accurately as possible.	The court declined to adopt a uniform, district-wide order governing trial. Instead, the judicial officers of the district will review and revise their existing orders, eliminating what is no longer necessary by 2/1/92. By 4/1/92, the court will prepare a summary of the orders then in use, identifying differences, and making copies available.
S.D. Ind.	All trials will commence within 6 to 18 months after the filing of the complaint unless the court determines that, because of case complexity, trial cannot be	IA	IA	IA	

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	reasonably held within such time. Loc. R. 16.1	Loc. R. 16.3			Loc. R. 40.3
N.D. Iowa	The clerk of court will have responsibility for setting trial dates. Trial dates should be set within 60 days after the final pretrial conference and 90 days after the completion of discovery.	IA	IA	IA	
S.D. Iowa	IA	IA	IA	IA	
D. Kan.	IA	IA	IA	IA	
E.D. Ky.	Firm trial dates are established at a mandatory status conference convened early in the litigation.	IA	IA	IA	
W.D. Ky.	The court will make every effort to set early and firm trial dates. The court rejected the Advisory Group recommendation for a new local rule that trials must be commenced within 18 months after the filing of the complaint.	IA	IA	IA	
E.D. La.	The trial date is established at the preliminary conference, with the trial date to be no later than 9 months after the conference, unless required by the complexity of the case.	Motions for postponement of trial will be accompanied by the certificate of an attorney of record that his or her client has been notified that the attorney has initiated or consented to a motion to continue trial and that the client has been provided with a copy of the motion or consent.	If the court cannot adhere to a trial date, and is unable to provide another judicial officer to try the case as scheduled, the judge will advise counsel as soon as practicable and continue the trial. Such a continued case should be given calendar preference thereafter.	The uniform pretrial order governs management of the trial, including extensive requirements concerning the manner of presentation of exhibits, testimony, fact witnesses, and experts. Other limits may also be imposed by the presiding judge in a particular case.	

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M.D. La.	IA	Motions for postponement of trial must be accompanied by certification that counsel has discussed the motion with the party.	If the court cannot adhere to a trial date, an attempt is made to find another judicial officer to try the case. If postponed, the case is given calendared preference thereafter.	It is court policy to set a single trial on a specific date (as opposed to setting several trials for a given date).	Decisions on nonjury trials should be rendered as soon as practicable.
W.D. La.	Trial dates are set in the scheduling order issued after the scheduling conference.	IA	IA	IA	
D. Me.	The scheduling order will identify the month in which the case will be ready for trial. Loc. R. 16(c)(3)	No (PD)	IA	The presiding judge will establish the limits of the trial day, the amount of time each side will have for its case, including cross-examination of witnesses. Loc. R. 24(e)	
D. Md.	Trial dates are set in the scheduling order: within 8–10 months of the date of the order for routine cases, and within 12–18 months of the scheduling conference for complex cases.	IA Loc. R. 107.2	IA	IA Loc. R. 106.7 Loc. R. 107.4 Loc. R. 107.5 Loc. R. 107.6 Loc. R. 107.7 Loc. R. 107.8 Loc. R. 107.11	
D. Mass.	Firm trial dates are set at the final pretrial conference.	IA	IA	A final pretrial conference will be held. Counsel will confer no later than 14 days prior to the conference and file no later than 5 days prior to the conference a pretrial memorandum that sets forth: 1. a concise summary of the evidence; 2. facts established by pleadings, stipulations, or admissions by counsel; 3. contested issues of fact; 4. jurisdictional questions; 5. questions raised by pending motions; 6. issues of law, with supporting authority;	Absent agreement by opposing counsel, the court may place time limits on evidentiary hearings.

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				<p>7. requested amendments to pleadings; 8. any additional matters that may aid in the disposition of the trial; 9. the probable length of the trial; 10. names, addresses, and telephone numbers of witnesses to be called and whether the testimony of any such witness is intended to be presented by deposition; 11. the proposed exhibits; and 12. the parties' positions on expert testimony. The agenda for the conference will include a discussion of issues covered by the memorandum as well as issues concerning jury selection and jury comprehension.</p> <p>Loc. R. 16.1(F). (10/92; Revised 12/94) Loc. R. 16.5 (10/92; Revised 12/94)</p>	
E.D. Mich.	The court will establish a policy urging the scheduling of a firm trial date at the initial pretrial conference. The court rejected an Advisory Group recommendation that the local rules be revised to mandate docketing of cases for trial by dates certain.	<p>Loc. R. 26.2(B)(2) (10/92; Revised 12/94)</p> <p>IA</p> <p>Loc. R. 39.1</p>	<p>IA</p> <p>Loc. R. 38.3</p>	<p>IA</p> <p>Loc. R. 39.2 Loc. R. 39.3 Loc. R. 39.4 Loc. R. 40.1</p>	Loc. R. 43.1 (10/92)
W.D. Mich.	A trial date is set at the case management conference according to the assigned DCM track.	IA	IA	<p>IA</p> <p>Loc. R. 35 Loc. R. 36 Loc. R. 37</p>	Fixed dates of trial should be adhered to whenever possible.

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D. Minn.	The court accepts as a guideline that trial should occur within 18 months of filing unless a judicial officer certifies that more time is needed.	IA	Continuances will be granted only for compelling reasons; all judicial resources will be used to adhere to an established trial date. Loc. R. 6.1 (2/91)	A final pretrial conference will be held at least 7 days prior to trial, for final scheduling of all remaining matters and discussions of various issues related to the conduct of the trial.	
N.D. Miss.	IA	IA	IA	IA	
S.D. Miss.	IA	IA	IA	IA	
E.D. Mo.	The trial date will be set through the joint scheduling order.	IA	IA	IA	
W.D. Mo.	To assist judges in setting early trial dates, parties are required to provide judges with an estimate of the number of days the trial is expected to last and reasons supporting the estimate. Loc. R. 15H (1/83; Revised 1/84, 9/92, 7/94)	IA	IA Loc. R. 18 (1/93)	IA	
D. Mont.	The method for setting trial dates differs by DCM track. Expedited cases are placed on the calendar for trial within 6 months. General cases have a status conference at which the judicial officer will establish a trial date. Loc. R. 235-4(b)	IA	If the judicial officer is unable to convene a trial as scheduled, that judicial officer will convene a status conference in order to reach agreement between the parties to either reassign the case or establish a new trial date. Loc. R. 235-4(b)	IA	If the trial date is set for more than 18 months from the date of filing, the judicial officer must file an order certifying why the trial cannot be held earlier. Loc. R. 235-4(b)
D. Neb.	In Omaha, the court will consider setting aside 2 or 3 weeks periodically during which certain civil cases that have pretrial orders on file and which the lawyers estimate will take 5 days or less to try will be placed on one trailing calendar and called for trial. The court will	IA	IA	In Omaha, the court will consider the following alternatives to reduce the impact of the criminal docket on the trial and disposition of its civil docket: 1. The court will periodically set aside 2 or 3 weeks during which cases that have pretrial orders on file and whose	

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	also consider modifying the use of a trailing docket in Omaha to instead use a method of setting trials that more closely parallels the method used in Lincoln. Loc. R. 40.1–40.3 (Revised 1/93)			attorneys estimate will take 5 or fewer days to try will be placed on the calendar and called for trial. 2. The criminal and civil dockets will be split, with at least 1 district judge assigned exclusively to the civil docket.	
D. Nev.	Stacked and master calendar systems will be studied by an ad hoc committee. The court will immediately implement a system of civil trial months to ensure the integrity of civil trial dates.	The standing committee on local rules will study this issue.	IA	IA	
D.N.H.	The trial date will be set in the initial scheduling order issued at the preliminary pretrial conference. Trial dates for complex cases will be set after a status conference to be held 6 months after the complaint is filed.	IA	Cases are stacked for trial.	IA Loc. R. 33 (5/69; Revised 1/85)	Courtroom time will be expanded through the increased use of the renovated magistrate judge courtroom.
D.N.J.	IA	IA	IA	IA	
D.N.M.	The court recommends that whenever possible each judge adopt a policy of setting and keeping early, firm trial dates.	IA	If the assigned trial judge is unable to meet a set trial date, efforts will be made to determine if another district judge is available to keep the set trial date.	IA	
E.D.N.Y.	The court agreed with the Advisory Group in rejecting a requirement of trial within 18 months. The court left the setting of trial dates to individual judges.	No	The court will continue to use a random assignment system. If the assigned judge does not reach a trial-ready case in a reasonable time, (no more than 6 months), the parties may request a conference with the clerk's office. The clerk will try to find a judge to hear the case on 1 or 2 days' notice.	In bench trials, the court may direct that an expert's testimony be submitted in writing, and that the only cross-examination be done before the fact finder. In bench trials, expert testimony may be taken by deposition. The court may take expert testimony out of the regular order of proof. The court may require the parties in all	

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				cases to file a pretrial statement of stipulated and disputed facts. Except for impeachment or rebuttal, exhibits will be marked prior to trial. Any objections to documentary evidence will be made by in limine motions as long as the evidence has been designated at least 10 days prior to trial. Where appropriate, the court may order direct testimony to be submitted in writing.	
N.D.N.Y.	All cases not exempted by the plan will be assigned a trial date within 18 months of the date of filing of the action. Trial dates may be accelerated by request of all parties and consent of the court, showing of good cause by any party, or by request of the court and consent of all parties. Trial dates may be postponed by request of all parties and consent of the court, by a showing of good cause by any party, or by a finding of the court. Loc. R. 40.3	IA	To avoid postponement of a trial date, the parties will have the option of consenting to trial before a magistrate judge. If the parties do not consent, the court will have the discretion to assign the case to an available district judge or the assigned judge will have the discretion to try the case contemporaneously with another trial.	IA	
S.D.N.Y.	Expedited cases will be set for trial within 1 year of service of the complaint. In standard and complex cases, the court should set a firm trial date that is as early as is reasonable and no later than 18 months after the filing of the complaint, unless the court certifies that: 1. the demands and complexity of the case make such a trial date incompatible with serving the ends of justice; or 2. the trial cannot reasonably	IA	The court should consider appropriate steps, including the assignment and reassignment of cases or the provision of additional resources, to ensure timely judicial attention to the court's docket.	IA	

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	be held within such time because of the complexity of the case or the number or complexity of pending criminal cases; or 3. other good cause exists.				
W.D.N.Y.	A proposed trial date is to be set by the magistrate judge at the first discovery conference.	Attorney and party will be required to sign requests at the discretion of the court.	IA	IA	Each bench trial will be targeted for decision within 60 days of the close of proof.
E.D.N.C.	A firm trial date is assigned in the scheduling order. Trial dates are scheduled by court session and location.	CR	IA	Depositions will be consecutively numbered and the numbers retained for trial use. Loc. R. 23.00 (2/94)	The pretrial conference will address the use of evidence notebooks by jurors during the trial. Loc. R. 24.00 (Revised 2/94)
M.D.N.C.	Trial dates should be set on the calendar of the assigned judge or a master calendar to be called by 2 or more judges. Loc. R. 207	IA Loc. R. 207(b)	IA	Cases that are not reached on a calendar will be given priority on a following calendar.	Parties will prepare for trial by complying with the Fed. R. Civ. P. on final pretrial disclosure and by filing trial briefs 20 days before the trial date. Loc. R. 207(c)
W.D.N.C.	Trial dates are set by DCM track at the initial pretrial conference, within the limits established for each track: 1. expedited cases, which will be completed within 6 months after filing; 2. standard cases, which will be completed within 12 months after filing; 3. complex cases, which will have a presumptive completion date of no more than 24 months after filing; 4. administrative cases, which will be completed within 3 months after filing; and 5. mass torts, which will be completed on a date set after consultation with the attorneys of record.	IA	IA	IA	

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D.N.D.	The trial date is set at the initial scheduling conference and will be changed only under extraordinary circumstances. Trial should be scheduled to take place within 18 months of filing. Exceptions will be made in complex cases or because of criminal caseload demands.	IA	If there is a conflict between the civil case and a criminal case, the court will attempt to have another judge try the civil case on the original date.	IA	
D. N. Mar. I.	Trial dates are scheduled during the case management conference.	IA Loc. R. 220-10	When the court is unable to convene a trial as scheduled, the judge will immediately take one of the following actions: 1. determine if another judge would be available to preside over the trial; 2. convene a status conference for the purpose of advising counsel and parties of the necessity to consider vacating the trial date; or 3. establish a new trial date.	The judge will manage the pretrial activity of the case through direct involvement in the establishment, supervision, and enforcement of the case management plan.	It will be the policy of the court to use all available judicial resources to allow the court to adhere to an established trial date. An established trial date will not be vacated unless there exists a compelling reason for a continuance.
N.D. Ohio	Trial dates are set at the status hearing, but may be set at any time. Loc. R. 8:5.1(c) (1/1/92; Revised 12/15/92)	IA	If, for any reason, the assigned judicial officer is unable to hear the case within 1 week of its assigned trial date, the case will be referred to the chief judge for reassignment to any available district judge or, upon consent of the parties, magistrate judge for prompt trial. Loc. R. 8:5.1(c) (1/1/92; Revised 12/15/92)	IA	
S.D. Ohio	The court will assign a meaningful trial date early in each civil case. The court will attempt to ensure that trial in most noncomplex civil cases occurs within 18 months of filing. Loc. R. 40.1 (10/91)	CR	IA	IA	

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E.D. Okla.	IA	IA	IA	IA	
N.D. Okla.	<p>The court will endeavor to schedule criminal and civil matters so as to reduce civil case interruptions. The court will schedule jury trials on 4 days each week so that the court can devote 1 day to criminal hearings and other civil matters.</p> <p>Loc. R. 16.1(H)(12)</p>	IA	IA	<p>In every case, the court will consider limitations on the number of expert witnesses, the number of fact witnesses, and the time given to testify at trial. The court will permit some witnesses to present their evidence on direct examination either through a full or partial narrative format after the narrative is first provided to opposing counsel and a fair opportunity to present objections is given. If permitted by law, the court will permit some witnesses to present their evidence through deposition. The court will require opposition counsel to be notified in a timely fashion if such deposition testimony is contemplated.</p> <p>Loc. R. 16.2(N)</p>	
W.D. Okla.	<p>Whenever practicable, the court will designate a month certain for trial. If a case cannot be set for trial within 18 months, the judicial officer will certify that the case is complex or that there are pending criminal cases. The goal of the court is that cases will be tried within 12 months, with the exception of special management cases.</p>	IA	<p>Once a trial date has been set, no continuances will be granted without compelling reasons.</p> <p>Loc. R. 19 (9/1/82)</p>	<p>IA</p> <p>Loc. R. 16 (9/1/82) Loc. R. 20 (9/1/82) Loc. R. 22 (9/1/82) Loc. R. 27 (9/1/82) Loc. R. 30 (9/1/82)</p>	
D. Or.	<p>Firm trial dates will be set. Counsel and the court must expect to set and keep trial dates. Most judges employ a trailing calendar, where cases are set for a date certain.</p>	IA	<p>If emergencies arise, the court will do everything in its power to find another active, senior visiting, or magistrate judge to try the case as scheduled. Attorneys, parties, and witnesses should be prepared</p>	IA	<p>The court's ultimate goal is to afford every civil litigant a trial within 1 year from the date of filing. The court's case management procedures are designed to accomplish this goal.</p> <p>All new cases are assigned</p>

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M.D. Pa.	IA Loc. R. 16.4 (Revised 1/94)	IA Loc. R. 203.2 (Revised 11/88)	IA	IA Local Rules, Chapter VIII Loc. R. 39.1–51	
W.D. Pa.	IA Loc. R. 16.1.2A8 (10/93)	IA	IA	IA	
D.P.R.	For cases in the expedited track, trial dates can be set at the initial conference or in the initial order. For other cases, trial dates are set at the initial scheduling order or by court order.	IA	IA	IA	
D.R.I.	IA	This provision is under review by the court as part of its review of proposed changes to local rules.	IA	IA	
D.S.C.	The court rejected requirements for setting of early, firm trial dates. The court's standard interrogatories instead gather information that is used to schedule trial dates.	The court rejected this requirement; local rule already requires an affidavit of statement of counsel as to the reasons for extensions of deadlines. Loc. R. 12.11	IA	IA	
D.S.D.	Counsel are to confer and recommend the earliest possible trial date to the court.	Requests for trial continuances must be made by motion. Loc. R. 40.1 (1992)	Senior judges and magistrate judges, with the consent of parties, serve as backups to the assigned judge.	IA Loc. R. 39.1 (1992) Loc. R. 43.1 (1992) Loc. R. 47.1 (1992) Loc. R. 51.1 (1992)	
E.D. Tenn.	IA	IA Loc. R. 38.2	IA	IA	
M.D. Tenn.	The case manager will target a trial date or month at the initial case management conference. The date will become more focused after the first phase of discovery is completed and dispositive motions are resolved.	IA	A civil trial will be scheduled only when it is clear that the case will proceed to trial. Each active district judge will designate 1 week per month as a civil trial week. During that week, civil trials will be scheduled with firm trial dates and, ideally, there will be no interruptions by	Each active district judge will designate 1 week each month as a civil trial week, for the scheduling of firm civil trial dates with no interruptions by criminal or other matters. To optimize juror utilization, judges will schedule civil trial weeks in pairs.	

Table 8: Trial

District	Method for Setting Trial Dates	Parties Sign Trial Continuance Requests	Backup System for Trial Dates	Methods for Trial Management	Other
	Loc. R. 11(d)(1)(c)(6)(k) Loc. R. 11(d)(5) (3/94) Loc. R. 11(d)(6)(d)(1) (3/94)		criminal or other matters. Loc. R. 11(d)(5) (3/94)		
W.D. Tenn.	IA	Written requests for continuances, extensions, or postponement, signed by the attorney, are generally required in this district. Loc. R. 17 (Revised 1/93)	IA	Any matter under advisement over 6 months will be flagged and given priority over all other civil matters. The court will use a modified accelerated docket on an as-needed basis to keep the civil docket current, and will use visiting judges when appropriate. The clerk will develop a system for the monitoring of due dates.	The court will enforce all time limits more strictly than has been the past practice. The agreement of all parties is not a sufficient basis for an extension or continuance, except as permitted by local rule.
E.D. Tex.	The court abolished traditional docket calls. Each judicial officer will endeavor to set early and firm trial dates, to eliminate the need for multiple-case docket calls. Trial dates are set at the management conference.	Yes	IA	Time limits for trial are discussed at the management conference.	
N.D. Tex.	The trial date is set in the scheduling order issued within 90 days after issue is joined.	Motions for continuance must be signed by the party and the attorney of record.	IA	The presiding judge may limit the length of trial, the number of witnesses each party may present, the number of exhibits, and the amount of time each party may have to examine witnesses. Loc. R. 1.1 (3/78) Loc. R. 8.5 (3/78)	
S.D. Tex.	A trial date will be set in the scheduling order entered at the initial pretrial conference.	The court will require signatures by individual notice.	IA	Where appropriate, the court will impose orders limiting the time allowed for examination and cross-examination of witnesses, and/or presentation of cases in trials. The court as a whole deals with limitation of expert witness testimony on a case-by-case basis. By joint pretrial order under Loc. R. 11A, counsel are required to list names and addresses of	Where appropriate, the court will use several techniques to enhance jury understanding, including tutorial media for complex concepts, videotaped depositions, and so on. These techniques are within the limits established by the Fed. R. Civ. P.

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District	Method for Setting Trial Dates	Parties Sign Trial Continuance Requests	Backup System for Trial Dates	Methods for Trial Management	Other
	Loc. R. 8 (5/88; Revised 1/92, 2/94)			witnesses, including qualification of expert witnesses with a brief statement of the nature of their testimony.	
W.D. Tex.	IA	IA	IA	Judges will encourage the increased use of deposition evidence to reduce witness costs. The use of bifurcated trials will be encouraged where appropriate.	The court finds it unnecessary to seek additional authority for trial judges to limit the number of witnesses or place time limits on trial presentations. Judges will be encouraged to furnish each juror with a copy of the court's charge before it is read to the jury, as an aid to jury comprehension.
D. Utah	Matters are set for trial at an appropriate point in the case, compatible with the schedule of the court and counsel. Some judges set provisional trial dates at the initial scheduling conference. Other judges prefer to wait because 96% of cases settle.	IA	IA	No change in current practice is necessary.	
D. Vt.	IA Loc. R. 7	IA	IA	IA Local Practice	
D.V.I.	IA	IA	IA	IA	
E.D. Va.	PD	IA	IA	IA Loc. R. 11.1(K) Loc. R. 12(E)	
W.D. Va.	IA	IA	IA	Since many cases are settled before the trial date, "double booking" will be done in many cases. If a conflict occurs, the court will attempt to find another district judge to handle one of the cases. When a case scheduled for trial is the secondary case in a double-booking situation, the parties will be so advised and will be obligated to	

Table 8: Trial

District	Method for Setting Trial Dates	Parties Sign Trial Continuance Requests	Backup System for Trial Dates	Methods for Trial Management	Other
				monitor the progress of the primary case. If the situation is not resolved within 5 days of the trial date, the secondary case will be canceled and rescheduled.	
E.D. Wash.	IA Loc. R. 40	IA	IA	IA Loc. R. 43	
W.D. Wash.	The court will strengthen its practice of assigning and preserving firm and early trial dates.	The court considered but rejected a requirement that requests to postpone trials be signed by both the attorney and the party.	District judges will continue to try cases for each other when necessary and the court will take reasonable steps to increase the number of parties consenting to trial before a magistrate judge.	IA	
N.D. W. Va.	IA Loc. R. 2.13	IA	IA Loc. R. 2.13	IA Loc. R. 2.13 Loc. R. 4.02	
S.D. W. Va.	A firm trial date is established in the time frame order. Loc. R. 2.01	If counsel makes repeated requests to postpone trial, the court may require that parties consent to such request in writing.	When a district judge has more than 1 case going to trial on a given day, the judge will attempt to secure consent in the remaining cases to trial before a magistrate judge. If consent is not given, the judge must attempt to secure another district judge willing to try the next scheduled case. Loc. R. 6.03	IA Loc. R. 6.03	
E.D. Wis.	IA	IA	IA	After consideration of the final pretrial reports, district judges and magistrate judges may establish reasonable time limits for the trial of all criminal and civil cases. Loc. R. 8.04 (1/1/94)	
W.D. Wis.	The trial date is discussed at the preliminary pretrial conference and set in the preliminary pretrial order.	CR	IA	Trial will be conducted in such a manner that conferences outside the presence of the jury are minimized. The court will apply Fed. R. Evid. 611(a)(2)	

Table 8: Trial

District	Method for Setting Trial Dates	Parties Sign Trial Continuance Requests	Backup System for Trial Dates	Methods for Trial Management	Other
				to limit the introduction of cumulative evidence that would extend the trial needlessly. The court will apply Fed. R. Evid. 702 carefully to limit expert testimony to those circumstances in which it will assist the trier of fact and the expert is properly qualified.	
D. Wyo.	IA	CR	<p>Local rules will be drafted to set stacked trials in the order they are intended to proceed to trial. The case caption, attorneys' names, and estimated trial length of preceding trials will be in the initial pretrial order, and will be maintained by the clerk for the court and counsel. Counsel will be responsible for determining the status of cases preceding their own. The court will immediately notify counsel when a preceding case is stricken. Current district practice will be changed to speed up the requirement for settlement of the first case. Counsel in trailing cases will then be excused. If the first case does not meet the deadline, counsel will have the option of proceeding to trial. However, in late settlements counsel may have to pay jury costs that the court incurred.</p> <p>Loc. R. 40 (11/92) Loc. R. 314 (11/92)</p>	IA	<p>Except as otherwise provided by the plan, all requests for continuances or extensions of time will be submitted to the court upon written motion. The court will continue current practice of setting trial dates 5 months after the initial pretrial conference (with strict adherence) for noncomplex cases. The court will adhere to the trial location designated in the final pretrial order, absent exceptional circumstances. However, the court will pay special attention to trial locations to foster public awareness of the open access and operation of the federal court in Wyoming.</p> <p>Loc. R. 40 (11/92)</p>